

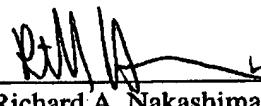
Original claims 18-33, 35-49, 51-56, 58-61, 63-65, 67-83, 85-97 and 99-109 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by preliminary amendment dated June 10, 2002, solely to reduce the filing fees for the present application. Upon election in response to the restriction requirement mailed November 19, 2002, Applicants wish to prosecute the subject matter of original claims 18-25, 29-32 and 58-61, which depended from original claims 1 and 57. That subject matter is added herein as new claims 110-125. Applicants submit that new claims 110-125 are supported at least by original claims 18-25, 29-32 and 58-61 as well as numerous passages in the Specification and that no new matter is added by the addition of new claims 110-125.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-17, 34, 50, 57, 62, 66, 84, 97 and 98 were pending in the case. The Office Action mailed 11/19/2002 issued a Restriction Requirement, classifying the claims into Groups I-V and requiring election of the invention to be examined. In response, Applicants respectfully elect to examine the claims of Group I (claims 1-17 and 57), drawn to a method of characterizing a first molecule and a second immobilized molecule. Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 34, 50, 57, 62, 66, 84, 97 and 98 as drawn to non-elected inventions.

New claims 110-125 are added herein. Following election, claims 1-17, 57 and 110-125 are presently pending in the case. A copy of the claims showing changes made (new claims added) is attached as Appendix A.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN



Richard A. Nakashima
Reg. No. 42,023

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12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980

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APPENDIX A: AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 34, 50, 57, 62, 66, 84, 97, and 98 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

110-125. [New]